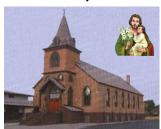
Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 18—24, 2022



St. Joseph's Catholic Church **710 N Custer Avenue** Hardin, MT 59034 **Father Callistus Igwenagu** 406-665-1432

Mass Schedule St. Joseph's Church - Hardin Sunday Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Saturday Mass – 5:45 p.m. Weekday Mass – 8:00 a.m. M-F

St. Mary's Mission - Custer Sunday Mass – 11:00 a.m.

Website: stjosephparishhardin.org Email: stjosephparishhardin@gmail.com Facebook: St Joseph Catholic Parish—Hardin

**Pastoral Staff Volunteers** 

Parish Bookkeeper: Colleen Schaak Parish Secretary: Deb Johnson

**Bulletin: Patty Kepp** 

Website Editor: Julie O'Dell

**Religious Education: Celeste Geier & Bethany Fuchs** 

**Mass Intentions** 

Sun., Dec 18: For the people

Mon., Dec 19: +Corinne Buechler

by Bob & Pearl Vandersloot

Tues., Dec 20: +Rose Tecca

by Larry & Deb Johnson

Wed., Dec 21: +Connie Medhus

by Lowell Medhus

Thurs., Dec 22: +James Tucker Sinks

by Steve & Vicky O'Neil

Fri., Dec 23: For recovery of Jim Seykora by the Catholic Daughters

Sat., Dec 24:

**Offertory Collections:** Sat., Dec 10: \$ 1,944.00 Month of November, 2022 Income: \$7,271.82

Expenses: \$8,732.96 Sun., Dec 11: \$ 886.00

- \$ 1,461.14

## Mass Servers

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	Commentator	<u>Lector</u>
Sat., Dec 17	Richelle Link	Julie O'Dell
Sun., Dec 18	Angela Ramirez	Sue Seykora
Sat., Dec 24	Patty Kepp	Sue Seykora
Sun., Dec 25	Angela Ramirez	Celeste Geier
Sat., Dec 31	Julie O'Dell	Patty Kepp
Sun., Jan 1	Candy Wells	Visencia Ramirez
Sat., Jan 7	Chris Fuchs	Bethany Fuchs
Sun., Jan 8	Sue Seykora	Angela Ramirez

Reconciliation: Saturday from 4:45-5:30 pm For Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick, please contact Father Cally **Contact Numbers:** 

Father Cally, 406-665-1432: all guestions Patty Kepp, 406-665-5257: bulletin

## Calendar

Sun., Dec 18: JCDA Christmas party, 10:00 am,

church basement

Sun., Dec 18: Christmas Choir Practice, 10:00 Mon., Dec 19: Knights of Columbus monthly meeting, 6:00 pm, church basement

Tues., Dec 20: Christmas Carol of Nine Lessons, 5:00 pm, followed with potluck. All the parish is welcome!

Wed., Dec 21: Religious Education class at 3:45 pm

Wed., Dec 21: Mass, Adoration, Rosary and Novena Prayer to St. Joseph, 5:30 pm

Sat., Dec 24: Christmas Eve Mass, 5:45 pm Sun., Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass, 9:00 am

Every Parish family can have unlimited access to life changing Catholic content that will enrich your life. Formed is an online platform that provides 24/7 access to the best movies, ebooks and video based studies from a trusted provider like the Augustine Institute. As a parishioner of St. Joseph's, you will have the opportunity to learn more about Formed and how to get started for free in the next couple of weeks.



## Trust and obey God always

Today is the last Sunday of advent. The birth of

Jesus is imminent. Today's readings call upon us to put our trust in God and always obey him. Trusting in God's love could be the best way to prepare for Christmas. In the first reading (7:10-14) Ahaz king of Judah was faced with a threat from the kingdoms of Israel and Syria. He decided to seek for help from the pagan nation –Assyria. But Isaiah asked him to put his trust in God who will be able to save him from his enemies instead of Assyria. He assured him of God's abiding presence by giving him a sign: "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel- God is with us". But still Ahaz refused to put his trust in the Lord. He felt that trusting in God is risk-taking. He doesn't want to take the risk. He preferred to trust in the military powers of the Assyrians. In the gospel (Matt.1:18-24) Joseph was faced with the challenge of divorcing his wife whom he found pregnant outside wedlock. But Angel Gabriel brought him the message of God not to send Mary away that the child was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph listened and trusted in the Lord and his message and did not send his wife away. For Joseph, trusting in God was not risktaking. It is a conviction in the word of God. When difficulties come your way, where do you put your trust, where do you seek for help? Ahaz sought for help from pagan Assyria but was eventually defeated by his enemies. Joseph trusted in God and sought his help during his difficult moment. He was blessed and he equally brought blessings to the whole world.

Let us imitate Joseph who trusted God. Joseph is a model of obedience and trust. If he had not trusted and obeyed God, he would have scattered the plan of God for human salvation. Assuming Joseph had divorced his wife Mary in disobedience to the word of God, our salvation would have been delayed or may not even have come by now. And Blessed Virgin Mary herself also trusted in God. When she was given the message that she would be the mother of Jesus without knowing a man, she believed, trusted, and obeyed God. If she had not trusted and obeyed, she would have messed up

the salvation plan. Angel Gabriel told Joseph "Your wife will bear a son and you shall name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." The name Jesus means God saves; Yahweh sets free. Jesus came to save us from our enemy and our greatest enemy is sin. Jesus came to set us free the powers of the devil. That is why we must always put our trust in him. Acts 4:12 says "there is no salvation in anyone else except Jesus, for there is no other name given among mortal by which we must be saved." Jer. 17:7 says, "Blessed is the person who puts his trust in the Lord and whose hope is the Lord." So, let us trust and obey God always. Faith is not risk-taking. It is a conviction in the goodness, love, and power of God. Hymn: TRUST & OBEY.

**Knights of Columbus Christmas Trees** are on display at Hardin Chevrolet. They can be purchased for \$30 each



## **Cum Christo Weekends**

— BIG SKY — CUM CHRISTO

Men's Weekend Dates: Feb 9 - 12, 2023 Rector: Dean Mindt 406-687-3818 mindtdean@gmail.com Scripture Theme: "I go to prepare a place for you" Women's Weekend Dates: Feb 16 - 19, 2023 Rectora: Wendy Wiltzen 406-480-9845 wwiltzen@gmail.com Scripture Theme: "Be not afraid, I am with you always" More information on the table at the entrance of the church.

Christmas Carol of Nine Lessons

Tuesday, Dec 20th 5:00 p.m. Followed with potluck dinner

